

Amendments To The Specification:

Please add the paragraph at page 1 line 3, after the title and before the background of the invention, as follows:

--Related Applications

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/467,237, filed December 20, 1999.--

Please amend the paragraph at page 3 lines 11-28 as follows:

In U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/261,721 (Docket No. RDM 97-107 - ESCM 283139-00315; Merrill et al.), filed on March 3, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,235,370, a honeycomb structure having open cells was filled, and optionally overlaid, with a material containing hollow ceramic particles embedded in an interconnected ceramic matrix, to provide a composite thermal barrier composite coating having superior erosion resistance and abrasion properties for use on combustion turbine components. The hollow particles were preferably spherical and made of zirconia, alumina, mullite, ceria, YAG or the like, having an average particle size of about 200 micrometers (0.2 mm) to 1500 micrometers (1.5 mm). The steady state erosion rate, grams lost/kg erosive impacting media, of this filler was 3.2 g/kg vs. 4.6 to 8.6 g/kg for conventional TBCs. Here, the ceramic matrix comprised an interconnected open cell honeycomb structure, binding the hollow spheres together where the hollow spheres were bonded by a network of aluminum phosphate bridging bonds.

Please amend the paragraph at page 3 lines 29-31 as follows:

In U.S. Patent Application Serial No. _____ 09/536,742 (Docket No. 99E7538US - ESCM 283139-00936; Merrill), filed on _____ March 28, 2000, a vacuum packing/impregnation method of bonding hollow geometric shapes was described, to provide abradable, thermally stable seals and the like. Both U.S. Patent Application Serial Nos. 09/049,369 (Docket No. T2 97-026, ESCM 283139-00315, Morrison et al., filed on March 27, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,197,424) and 09/049,328 (Docket No. RDM 97-005, ESCM 283139-00374, Merrill, filed on March 27, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,013,592), teach ceramic insulating coatings with improved erosion resistance and macroscopic closed porosity, utilizing hollow oxide-based spheres which can contact at least 3 or 4 other hollow spheres to provide improved dimensional stability at temperatures up to about 1600°C. Erosion rate, grams lost/kg erosive impacting media was 4.5 g/kg. and 7.5 g/kg.